

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. Claims 9-12, 21-24, and 27-34 are allowed. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 14-16, and 18-20 stand objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims, but are noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by applicant's admitted art.

Initially, applicant gratefully acknowledges the early indication of the allowance and allowable subject matter in claims 2-4, 6-12, 14-16, 18-24, and 27-34.

With respect to the objected to subject matter of claims 2-4, 6-8, 14-16, and 18-20, each of claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 14, 15, 18, and 19 is amended by the present response to be rewritten in independent form, and thus those claims are now believed to be allowable based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action. Further, claims 4, 8, 16, and 20 depend from one of the newly rewritten allowable independent claims, and thus those claims are also believed to be allowable.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, and 26, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Each of claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, and 26 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, independent claim 1 now recites that the screening method includes a step of "cutting off corners of each of only single corner square cells facing each other on a square grid to form non-regular hexagonal cells." The other independent claims 5, 13, 17, 25, and 26 are amended by the present response to recite a similar feature. That subject matter is fully supported by the original specification for example in Figure 1. For example in Figure 1 each non-regular hexagonal cell 1-1, 1-2, 1-3 cuts off corners on square cells facing each other, and the square cells that have the corners

cut off are only single corner square cells. That is, as clearly shown in Figure 1 only one cell in the two opposite corner cells facing each other has a corner cut off.

Such a feature is believed to clearly distinguish over the admitted art in Figure 12. More specifically, as shown in Figure 12 in the two opposite corners having their corners cut off two square cells on each corner facing each other have their corners cut off. That structure in Figure 12 differs from the features now clarified in amended independent claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, and 26 in which in each of the opposite corners having square cells cut off only a single square cell has its corner cut off.

In such ways, each of amended independent claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, and 26 is believed to distinguish over the admitted art of Figure 12.

Thus, each of the pending claims is believed to be allowable over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

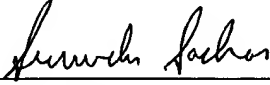
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